Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Status
West Bengal		
43.	Development of Calcutta Port Trust Land in Boat Canal Area.	Rejected
44.	Development of Calcutta Port Trust Land in Strand Area.	Rejected

Pollution due to Effluents Discharged by Industries

2444. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report headlined "Ankaleshwar, Vapi on the brink of disaster" published in the Indian Express, dated the 12th December, 1994;

(b) If so, whether Government have tried to ascertain the details and incidence of heavy pollution due to effluents discharged by thousands of industrial units, without proper treatment facilities;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to check the phenomenon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news report headlined "Ankaleshwar, Vapi on the brink of disaster", published in the Indian Express, dated the 12th December, 1994 is based on the study carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board in pursuance of the direction from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The report has highlighted the present status of environment in the area and also recommended steps to be taken on priority for pollution control in the Ankleshwar-Vapi Industrial belt.

(c) The steps taken to check pollution in this area include the following:

(i) The various measures to be taken for pollution control in Ankleshwar-Vapi industrial belt as recommended by the Central Pollution Control Board in their report have been forwarded to Gujarat State Pollution Control Board for taking urgent action.

(ii) The Gujarat State Pollution Control Board through its sub-regional offices at Vapi and Bharuch carried out intensive monitoring of industries from pollution control point of view. Based on these findings, the Board issued directions/legal notices to the defaulting units. The Board has also taken action under section 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, against the air polluting units by issuing closure order and directions to the concerned authorities for disconnection of water and power supply.

(iii) Most of the large and medium scale industries under the 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have installed the requisite pollution control facilities.

(iv) For small scale units located in Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) Estates at Vapi and Ankaleshwar, GIDC has worked out a time bound programme for providing effluent collection and disposal system.

(v) The Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Vapi is expected to be completed by the year 1995.

(vi) Vapi and Ankaleshwar have been identified as critically polluted areas and action plan to control industrial pollution in respect of Vapi has been evolved in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

The State Pollution Control Board has been directed to monitor the implementation of the action plan.

(vii) In order to prevent industrial pollution in future and to facilitate sustainable development, the Government has made it compulsory for major specific projects to obtain environmental clearance based on impact assessment.

(viii) In order to prevent adverse environmental and health impacts due to hazardous wastes, the State Government has been asked to implement Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules. 1989, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, by the Ministry.

(ix) The Gujarat State Pollution Control Board has sponsored a project to the National Productivity Council for identifying suitable sites for the disposal of hazardous wastes being generated at Vapi and Ankaleshwar.

(x) Under the World Assisted Industrial Pollution Control Project, assistance is provided for strengthening of the Gujarat Pollution Control Board and for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) in the clusters of small scale industries.

(d) Does not arise.

Decrease in the Forest Land in Vidharbha

2445. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total forest land in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra has decreased as on 1st March, 1995, than its position one year ago;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is being done to see that the forests are not denuded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Preservations of Corbett Park

2446. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a news report under the heading "Corbett Park faces twin threat" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated the 20th November, 1994;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) what steps are being taken to preserve the park and conserve the national habitat therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Corbett Park attracts a large number of tourists, which has some negative impact on the park. However, no adverse effects on wildlife has been noticed due to Kalagarh hydro-electric dam constructed more than two decades ago.

(c) The steps taken to preserve the park and conserve the habitat are as under:

(i) The patrolling in and around the reserves have been intensified.

(ii) The tourist traffic is strictly regulated.

(iii) Day visit to Dhikala has been stopped.